

## Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7229

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISTANBUL 1470

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJ: ISTANBUL REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY LEADER COMMENTS ON

CURRENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: ANKARA 1883

1. SUMMARY: REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY CHAIRMAN KOTIL BLAMED NATIONALIST FRONT FRO INFLAMING RIGHT-LEFT VIOLENCE, SAW LITTLE HOPE OF COOPERATION WITH JUSTICE PARTY, AND COMMENTED ON WILLY BRANDT'S VISIT TO RPP LEADER ECEVIT. END SUMMARY

2. AYTEKIN KOTIL, CHAIRMAN OF THE ISTANBUL REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) ORGANIZATION DISCUSSED CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION DURING CALL APRIL 19 BY CONGENOFF. KOTIL SAID THAT THE RPP LEADERSHIP WAS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF "FASCIST" INSPIRED VIOLENCE ENDANGERING THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM IN TURKEY. KOTIL ATTRIBUTED THE SOURCE OF CURRENT VIOLENCE TO THE FRUSTRATIONS OF EXTREMISTS ONBOTH RIGHT AND LEFT, WHO, KNOWING THEY CANNOT COME TO POWER BY ELECTIONS, ARE RESORTING TO "ANTI-DEMOCRATIC" MEANS. SPECIFICALLY, KOTIL ACCUSED NATIONAL ACTION PARTY (NAP) LEADER AND DEPPRIMIN ALPARSIAN TURKES OF  
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DIRECTING "COMMANDO" ATTACKS IN ORDER TO PROVOKE INTERVENTION

BY "CERTAINCIRCLES" (READ/ THE MILITARY) TO RESTORE ORDER AND CIRCUMSCRIBE LEFTIST ACTIVITIES. SINCE THE EXTREME LEFT IS ALSO COMMITTED OH BRINGING DOWN THE REGIME, THE CYCLE OF CIOLENCE CONTINUES. KOTIL SAID PRIMIN DEMIREL IS AWARE OF TURKES' ROLE, AND COULD HALT THE COMMANDOS IF HE CHOSE, BUT DOES NOT SINCE HE WANTS TO REMAIN IN POWER AT ANY COST. MOREOVER, DEMIREL, TOO, WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE LEFT ELIMINATED.

3. IN RESPONSE TO CONGENOFF'S QUESTION ABOUT POSSIBLE RPP-JUSTICE PARTY (JP) COOPERATION AS PROPOSED RECENTLY BY UNIVERSITY RECTORS, KOTIL SAID THAT RPP IN PRINCIPLE COULD COOPERATE WITH THE JP ON MAJOR ISSUES OF NATIONAL INTEREST, BUT ONLY WHEN THE JP CEASED TO SUPPORT NAP VIOLENCE. SINCE DEMIREL HAS SHOWN NO WILLINGNESS TO DESIST FROM VIOLENCE KOTIL FELT THAT IT WAS UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT RPP'S SUPPORT. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT ECEVIT ALWAYS WILLING TO LISTEN TO ANY " REASONABLE PROPOSAL".

4. ASKED ABOUT EARY ELECTIONS, KOTIL REPLIED THAT WHILE RPP WILL KEEP SEARCHING FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO BRING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT, IT SEEMED UNLIKELY THAT THIS WILL HAPPEN IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. THEREFORE, ALTHOUGH RPP PREPARED FOR EARLY

ELECTIONS, HE DID NOT EXPECT THEM TO OCCUR WITHIN NEXT FEW MONTHS

5. KOTIL DESCRIBED THE APRIL 12-14 VISIT OF WEST GERMAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADER WILLY BRANDT AS MOST SUCCESSFUL. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH BRANDT HAD VISITED ISTANBUL IN A PRIVATE CAPACITY AS ECEVIT'S GUEST, VISIT WAS ALSO INTENDED AS A STEP TO STRENGTHEN THE RPP'S TIES WITH OTHER MODERATE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES OF WESTERN EUROPE. KOTIL NOTE THAT THE RPP WANTED

TO DEMONSTRATE TO ITS WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTERPARTS THAT IT IS A PARTY SEEKING MODERATE, NOT RADICAL, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL REFORMS. HE FELT THAT ATTENTION SHOWN TO THE RPP BY A FIGURE OF BRANDT'S INTERNATIONAL STANDING WOULD ALSO HELP SILENCE DOMESTIC CRITICISM OF ALLEGED RPP RADICALISM.

6. COMMENT: KOTIL BELONGS TO EYUBOGLU FACTION WITHIN CONFIDENTIAL

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THE RPP, AND WAS THE HAND-PICKED SUCCESSOR OF ALI TOPUZ, WHO WAS ELECTED AS A DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE RPP IN THE PARTY'S SHAKE-UP LAST MONTH (REF TEL). CONSEQUENTLY, HE EXPOUNDS VIEWS OF MODERATES WITHIN RPP. MACE

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